



Bottisham Village College

Achievement through Inspiring, Caring, Enriching

Principal: Mrs Jenny Rankine M.Ed LLCM

Lode Road, Bottisham

Cambridge CB25 9DL

Tel: 01223 811250

www.bottishamvc.org

enquiries@bottishamvc.org



DFU/bg

November 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Year 10 Digital Strategy – iPad Scheme

Summary of Actions	Deadline
Please electronically sign the acceptable use agreement form.	19 November 2023

We are delighted to announce the launch of our 1:1 iPad initiative for Year 10 students. This initiative builds on the scheme we launched in November with Year 11 students. Our goal is to provide all Key Stage 4 (KS4) students with access to a loan iPad device to support their learning and preparation for GCSE assessments and exams.

To prepare for this project, we will be providing support to both students and staff over the next few weeks. Our aim is to ensure that everyone is familiar with the project's expectations and how to effectively use the devices to enhance learning.

We have put together some frequently asked questions (FAQs) that may help answer any queries you have.

To loan your child an iPad device, we'll need you to sign an electronic acceptable use agreement beforehand. This agreement should have already been sent to your email inbox.

We aim to distribute iPad's the week beginning 20 November. We will need the agreement signed in advance.

Yours sincerely,

Mr D Fullman
Deputy Principal



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Frequently asked questions

Why iPads?

- 10-hour battery life
- Lightweight and portable tablet well-suited to the demanding, fast-paced environment of a school
- A stable and reliable Operating System
- Extensive range of cheap/free Apps, developed specifically for educational use on the iPad
- Intuitive to use
- Range of inbuilt sensors and camera
- Apple-certified Apps that can be installed, giving confidence in the Apps to which students have access. The Apps will not contain viruses and can be restricted by age group.
- Functions provided by the iPad that can support effective teaching and learning, including:
 - A web browser - extension tasks, wider reading, film clips, research skills can all be developed in short bursts and where appropriate.
 - A camera - the production of rich media resources by students will lead to more innovative and varied presentation styles in lessons. It will allow learning to be consolidated and developed in a different way. Students can be filmed carrying out activities so that they can receive coaching from teachers and others. Techniques can be filmed by the teacher to support the skill development of their students.
- Apps - there are many subject specific Apps that can enhance the quality of provision. Obvious examples include GarageBand in music lessons and the many art creation Apps. However, there is an ever-increasing supply of subject specific Apps for all areas.
- Productivity software - students will have access to Google Classroom / Google Mail and Google Docs.

Who is paying for the devices?

The school has purchased the devices so they can be loaned to students. An Acceptable Use policy will need to be signed by both your yourself and your child before the device is issued. This will be sent by email as part of the distribution process.

Who owns the devices?

The devices are the property of the College. If your child leaves the College during, you will be required to return the iPad, with accessories to the College.

Do I get to keep the iPad?

No, the iPad belongs to the school and will need to be returned at the end of the academic year.

Can we buy our own iPad independently rather than join the scheme as costs are significantly more?

No. It is important to note that the scheme is not about the price of an iPad. The 1:1 scheme we are providing will involve a device that is fully insured and with a warranty. It will have all



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the up-to-date software that your child will need, and we will provide technical support during school hours.

These devices can be used at school during the day, as well as at home in the evenings and at weekends. In contrast, personally owned computers cannot be connected to the network at school, would not be managed by our Mobile Device Management (MDM) and would not be supported by our technical team. You would also be responsible for insuring your device against damage, loss or theft.

What happens if the device gets damaged or stolen?

The devices do not have insurance; however, we have budgeted to support students where there has been accidental damage, theft, or loss. During our pilot scheme, involving 70 devices, we only had to repair one screen. We are hoping our students will take good care of their devices, keeping them within the protective case.

How can you make sure that students are safe?

We already have an Acceptable Use Policy to ensure all students adopt a safe and sensible approach to using the device. A series of assemblies and guidance sessions will be organised to ensure all students are aware of this policy and are aware of how to use their device appropriately.

In addition to this, a Mobile Device Management system will be used by school to provide full control over the device. The MDM provide a school-curated selection of Apps and will prevent students from installing any apps from the Apple Store the school do not deem necessary.

Students' internet use will be filtered at all times using the same filter we use in the school, **but it is the responsibility of parents/carers for filtering/monitoring what their child does at home.** We recommend, ensuring your home wi-fi has appropriate filters, to ensure inappropriate content is blocked.

How will you ensure that students are not in danger when using social networking sites?

It is possible to block access to certain sites within school on iPads in the same way that it has been with PCs. We also have a duty of care to continue to educate students so that they understand the risks associated with social media and use it safely and positively.

What if students use the iPad to photograph each other without permission?

This issue will be taken very seriously, in the same way that it is now if a student uses their phone in this way. Playing games and taking photographs/video are possible now, as the majority of our students carry mobile phones. iPads would fit into our existing policies for dealing with such incidents.

Won't my child just be a target when traveling to and from school?

There is no evidence that student iPad schemes have led to a rise in thefts/muggings etc. The reality now is that iPads and iPhones running the latest iOS are less of a target as Apple has implemented technology that prevents them from being used by anyone else while there is an account attached to the device. Each device can also be tracked and disabled by the College if stolen. A large number of our students currently carry expensive smart phones to school and are not under threat because of this.

Will my child spend all day looking at a screen?



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As passionate as we are about the opportunities that iPads offer, we are also keen to ensure that other important traditional skills such as writing, sketching and group discussions continue. The role of iPads is to enhance and extend learning opportunities rather than replace those currently being used.

We will educate the students to think about the quality of their screen time. We hope that our projects encourage a larger proportion of purposeful, quality screen time. Young people need to learn positive digital behaviours and habits, and schools are well placed to encourage this and give the right pointers and encouragement.

The iPad is intended to be another part of the Teaching and Learning toolkit and not to replace the currently diverse methods of teaching that our students enjoy. It will not be used in every lesson, all lesson.

How will using the iPad impact on the quality of students' handwriting?

Students will still be expected to handwrite work in most subjects. There will be no need to word process all their work, and much will still be completed in exercise books. However, there are many advantages to word processing some work on the iPad using an app such as Word or Pages. Students can spell-check their work, look up definitions, add electronic notes and email work to their teacher for faster feedback. However, there is an argument, in terms of sustainability, that work stored electronically would reduce paper wastage.

Will my child be able to access their school work from home?

Students will have access to their Office 365 account and Google Drive from home where work saved on school computers can be accessed on the iPad. This access is cross-platform, enabling students to access saved work using PCs and iPads.

How will the iPad affect homework?

The iPad will be an invaluable tool to support home learning, giving simple access to a variety of apps and internet resources. All homework assignments are set electronically and can be accessed with ease using the iPad.

A device that can be used both at school and at home can improve continuity of learning, with all the resources needed available in one place. Parents/Carers can play a greater part in supporting and understanding the work that students are doing in class. We anticipate that homework tasks can have much greater depth and use a much wider range of media than conventional paper-based homework.

Exams still take place on paper, so how will the iPads help with this?

Practice exams and essays will still be handwritten. If these would benefit from electronic marking then they can be photographed and emailed to the teacher, consequently providing an electronic backup of the work.

How will you measure the impact of iPads on learning?

We are rigorous in our approaches to assessment at all key stages, across all subject areas. Regular assessment that is consistent year on year will provide some data on the impact of iPads; however, we are aware of the challenges in linking this data solely to iPad use. More meaningful information will be gathered during our current school self-evaluation procedures, which include regular lesson observations, learning walks, work scrutiny and student voice surveys.



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Can my child use their iPad at home?

Yes, we are keen to promote learning beyond the school gates so taking the iPad home is a key part of this scheme. Students will use their iPad to access and complete homework assignments. It will be the students' responsibility to ensure the iPad is fully charged for the next school day, there will not be facilities to charge the iPad in school.

Can my child use their iPad during breaks or lunchtime?

We are keen to get the balance right in terms of students accessing technology. We are committed to ensuring that students do not become dependent on technology and can develop their interpersonal and social skills. In light of this, students' access to their iPad will be strictly limited to the Library during break and lunchtimes. Our MDM system mentioned earlier can help us enforce our policy when necessary.

Will my child be able to install their own apps?

Initially only apps approved by the College can be used on the iPad; however, this is something we may reconsider in the future.

What amount of time will the iPad be used in a lesson?

This will vary from lesson to lesson. In some lessons the iPads may be used extensively, but in other lessons use of the iPad may not be relevant or appropriate. Likewise, some lessons may use the iPad for a brief starter, or at the end for a plenary. iPads will not replace good teaching; iPads will be used to diversify the range of effective learning and teaching strategies available to the teacher.

Will iPads become a distraction in class?

Effective classroom management is just as important as ever when iPads are being used. When iPads are not in use, they will be left face down on the table and in view of the teacher.

Will the Wi-Fi be able to cope with all these devices online at once?

Yes. The school has upgraded its wireless network to provide full wireless coverage across the College.

What happens if a student forgets to charge their iPad?

It is expected that students ensure their iPads are fully charged at the beginning of each school day.

Will it cost a lot of charges for my iPad at home?

The iPad charger is 20W. For a 3-hour charge, it will cost around 2-3p, on current energy tariffs. We estimate that charging the device regularly, will cost households, between £3 and £5 per year.

What happens if a student forgets their iPad?

We have no provision to offer another loaned device. Teachers will accommodate students without their devices if they have not bought them into school.

What do I need to provide at home?

All you are required to provide is a suitable school bag for the iPad to be stored in. Many apps and features of the iPad work without Wi-Fi. Having Wi-Fi at home, however, will give access to additional features including the internet.



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Will my child have to bring his iPad home every night?

Yes. They will need to take it home to make sure it is charged and ready for the next day. It is also very likely he will have homework to complete that will require access to the iPad.

Can my child use the iPad to watch Netflix, play games and access social media?

No. The iPad scheme is solely for educational use and students will not be able to download apps for social media, video streaming, or gaming.

Don't they just get broken?

Of course, some accidents happen. Students are expected to keep the iPad within the case provided, which will help protect the device from damage. We have budgeted a small amount to cover loss and breakages, however, if your child loses or breaks the device multiple times, we won't be able to issue a replacement device and they will be expected to cover the costs of replacement or repair.